Wilder's The Skin Of Our Teeth Presented by MIT Staff Players

As their offering for the fortnight festival the MIT Staff Players will present The Skin Of Our Teeth by Thornton Wilder. This production will run from Tuesday, May 31, to Saturday, May 4, with nightly performances starting at 8:00 P.M. Checking a plot for production is not an easy matter. Much must be considered and many questions asked before the play is finally decided upon. Through the years the Staff Players of MIT have selected many plays with varying degrees of success. However, this year two new considerations were presented which made the job of play selection more difficult.

First, with a theater available real sets could be employed. Those who recall working in 10-250 know its theatrical limitations. Second, the spring play was to be part of the official dedication of the Kresge Auditory.

A play selection group considered six questions: What would build the excitement? Which selection would be most producibly appropriate? Is a "message" play preferable? Finally after several weeks of deliberation, Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize Play, The Skin Of Our Teeth, was selected for the Staff Players offering for the festival. Although the play is classed as a comedy, it is somewhat like a carnival. It has the largest cast ever assembled by Staff Players for any production; thirty-three speaking parts, its unique set collapses and falls away during certain scenes and so adds more theatrics to an already novel play. Mr. Wilder has made good use of his audience. The spectators become a living part of the play. The play, from the essential aspects, Dr. "Blab" says: Man can suffer from cold, hunger, war, and illness as much as he ever did and still come out by the skin of his teeth, feeling optimistic; for man is indestructible and will rebuild again a life twice as good.

The leading characters are symbols of the characteristics of man. The Skin Of Our Teeth is a dream play. P. A. T. E. (P. A. T., the inventor, is in essence the creativity of man, the dreamer, the doer, the rebuilder. Mrs. Antrobus, mother, wife, and keeper of the home she is imposed upon. Through the years the Staff Players have found her to be a useful and overprotective, a laura, a "signal" character, centered in the story. The Skin Of Our Teeth presents a dream play and the skilled production is pushed along like a leaf on the tide. Without hesitation she is ready to give up the struggle to live as soon as things get the least bit rough. However, a new act, a play comes along. It seems that the movies teach her to make her life worthwhile. The son Henry is a comic evil incarnation, mean, full of hate and revenge. Gladys, the daughter, is youth, bright, happy, and truly demanding. Esmerelda, the fortune teller sense and will save what is left of the skin of our teeth, truth, sticking truth, that's what I'll do.

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SUNER WEEK

July tickets will be available for Junior Week in Building 10, from 11 tot 4, daily, during convocation periods at Baker House.

Senior Week and graduation are preceded by follow single room-

$3.50, double room- $2.50.

Night: Arrangements may be made at Baker House.

Stamp Collection Now On Exhibition

An outstanding collection of United States postage stamps, the gift of Capt. B. H. "Kilroy" '56, of the Staff Players, is now on public exhibition in the collection, consisting chiefly of unusual stamps and including fifty special stamps of many of the more rare ones, will be in the lobby of Building 7 from 10 to 4 daily.

"I have found," Mr. Kilroy said in donating the collection, "that my collective of United States postage stamps has attracted my attention. Mr. Norcross and I have served to transmit the technical expertise education I received at the Institute." The collection, valued at over $200, will be on display in the lobby late in May, 1954. Mr. Kilroy, a mili-